



TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINE RESERVIST'S ROCKET ASSAULT EARNS SILVER STAR



The Corps' Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Creed states that Marines are "bound to execute the demands of their position to and beyond what they believe to be the limits of their capabilities." Staff Sgt. Alec Haralovich with 4th Reconnaissance Battalion did just that when his unit was attacked by insurgents in Afghanistan last year. After Haralovich was knocked down by a bullet that hit his radio, he proceeded to get up and run forward with an armed rocket launcher, making himself a target as two other Marines provided cover fire. After destroying the enemy position, Haralovich and his fellow Marines pursued the

insurgents for another two hours. He was presented the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for combat heroism, by Maj. Gen. James M. Lariviere, the 4th Marine Division Commanding General at Camp Atterbury in Indiana in late August. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Lance Cpl. Sam Enriquez, a military working dog handler with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and his K-9 partner Kally, take part in night operations training Sept. 24 during the Inter-service Advanced Skills K-9 course at the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground. Enriquez and 18 other military police K-9 handlers from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps took part in the advanced pre-deployment course. Since the rigors and dangers of combat don't end when the sun sets, neither does the training the teams go through. *(Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant)*



IN THE NEWS

JAPANESE OFFICIALS TOUR MV-22



More than 140 Ministry of Foreign Affairs guests, Japanese officials and media personnel took part in an MV-22B Osprey orientation event Sept. 27 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. Visitors toured the Osprey, learned about the aircraft's capabilities and observed the Osprey in flight. "The importance of showing this aircraft to our host nation visitors is really to reassure them of the aircraft capabilities and safety features as well as the proficiency of our aircrew that fly them," said Maj. Gen. Christopher S. Owens, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general. "It's also a chance to demonstrate the tremendous capability this aircraft can bring both to the

Marine Corps in Japan but to the alliance as well." [Read more](#)

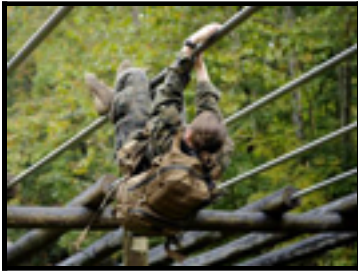
THREE-STAR DISCUSSES FUTURE CORPS



The next few years will be a time of rapid transition for the Marine Corps as the force shifts their focus, manpower and resources from Afghanistan to the Pacific, said Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, deputy commandant for Combat Development and Integration and commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command. At the Modern Day Marine Expo last week, Mills explained that after combat in the Middle East, the Corps will reset its force to the Pacific all while continuing to focus on future conflicts and develop new equipment and tactics. "We have to invest in the future, regardless of how much we cut," he said. "We're going to have to keep

putting money into basic research and into experimentation in order to prepare for the next fight." [Read more](#)

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS BEGIN INFANTRY TRAINING



Female volunteers are participating in Infantry Officer Course (IOC) for the first time. The Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries to "review laws, policies and regulations that may restrict the service of female members." As part of a measured, deliberate and responsible quantitative research study, the Marine Corps is conducting an assessment at IOC using volunteer female officers upon graduation from The Basic School. Female officers will complete the same exact program of instruction as their male counterparts during IOC. All officers will be subject to the same training standards during the research study. [Read more](#)

15TH MEU MARINES DIVE AT PEARL HARBOR



Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) started their Western Pacific Deployment by diving to the bottom of Pearl Harbor to view the remains of the USS Arizona, which has been at the bottom of Pacific Ocean for more than 70 years. The kick-off event served as a time to honor fallen service members as well as sharpen their diving skills in preparation for the unique missions the Marines will conduct during the deployment. The 15th MEU is deployed with the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group as the nation's rapid-response sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force. [Read more](#)

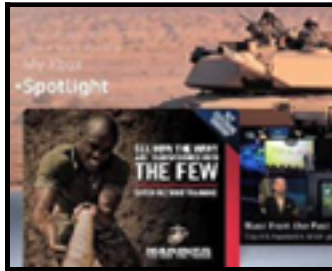
CIVILIANS GET A TASTE OF BOOT CAMP



Nearly 2,000 "recruits" arrived at Western Recruiting Region Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Sept. 19 to see if they have what it takes to become a Marine. As part of the 11th annual Boot Camp Challenge, civilians participated in a three-mile obstacle course designed to give them a taste of the process recruits endure prior to earning the title of United States Marine. The course included tunnels, trenches, walls and other physical challenges such as push-ups. Along the way, Marine Corps drill instructors ordered the participants through to the finish line. "You're

going to get motivated, the Marine Corps way!" Gunnery Sgt. Douglas King bellowed to participants. "You're going to get it whether you like it or not." [Read more](#)

MARINES RECRUIT VIRTUALLY



The Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) is keeping up with the ever-increasing digital age by using social media tools for recruiting. Even though the Marine Corps is drawing down forces, an increase of 15 to 18 percent more recruits are needed this year and MCRC is connecting with possible recruits on social media platforms such as Hulu, Facebook, Twitter and Xbox Live. Recruiting new Marines using social media tools allows MCRC to be as cost efficient as possible in a constrained fiscal environment, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman, MCRC commanding general. [Read more](#)

NEW STUDY REVEALS POTENTIAL METHOD TO REDUCE PTSD



Alternative medicine techniques known as healing touch and guided imagery can help reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military personnel according to a new study published in Military Medicine. Healing touch is described as an energy-based treatment meant to decrease pain and promote healing while guided imagery uses imagination and visualization to help reduce stress and anxiety. The 123 active-duty Marines with PTSD symptoms who participated in the study were assigned to receive standard treatment or standard treatment plus healing touch and guided imagery. Those who received the latter had

greater improvement in quality of life and lower levels of depression and cynicism than those who received standard treatment alone. [Read more](#)

WITH MCICOM FULLY OPERATIONAL, CORPS LOOKS FOR CONSISTENCY IN BASE SERVICES



Over the next year, the Marine Corps will take a look at the force's installations to ensure Marines and their families are given a consistent level of service from base-to-base, according to Maj. Gen. James Kessler, head of Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM). Kessler stated that ensuring Marines receive similar standards of training and family services is essential for operational readiness, especially as important decisions will need to be made with pending budget cuts. "One of the biggest priorities for me will be establishing common operating levels of service that ensure that every tenant aboard the installations knows what

to expect," he said. Kessler made the announcement at a recent ceremony to celebrate MCICOM's full operational capability. [Read more](#)

INDIANA MARINE RECEIVES COMMUNITY-BUILT HOME



Cpl. Matt Bowman has taken refuge in the "man cave," his favored room in his new home in Lafayette, Ind., built by the Lafayette Fire Department, community members and other organizations following the Marine's return from Afghanistan. While deployed, Bowman lost both his legs and several fingers after stepping on a mine. He was welcomed home by the Lafayette community, which came together in August to begin construction on the new home for Bowman, his wife, and their three kids. Bowman's man cave is equipped with trophies, a football signed by Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning and an acoustic guitar signed by singer-songwriter Edwin

McCain. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

OCTOBER 5, 1775

Meeting in Philadelphia, the 2nd Continental Congress used the word "Marines" on one of the earliest known occasions when it directed General George Washington to secure two vessels on "Continental risque and pay" and to give orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" to serve on the two armed ships.



SEMPER FI

MARINES MISSING IN ACTION FROM WWII IDENTIFIED



Seven Marines missing in action from World War II were laid to rest Oct. 4 at Arlington National Cemetery. The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced Tuesday that the remains of 1st Lt. Laverne Lallathin, 2nd Lts. Dwight Ekstam and Walter Vincent, Tech. Sgt. James Sisney, Cpls. Wayne Erickson and John Yeager, and Pfc. John Donovan had been identified. The group was aboard a PBJ-1 bomber that crashed on Espiritu Santo Island in the South Pacific in 1944. The Marines were buried as a group in a single casket with full military honors. [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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